



October /Deireadh Fómhair

The Month of the Rosary / Mí na Corónach Mhuire

October 7th is the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. We are asked throughout the month to pray the Rosary daily and to unite as a family as we do so. In the September Blog we issued an invitation to Transition Year students to participate in a Vincentian initiative “The Rosary in the time of Covid”. Closing dates for registration is 30th October.

Pope St John Paul asked of us “The Rosary is a prayer both so humble and simple and theologically rich in Biblical content. I beg you to pray it.” The recitation of the Rosary is one of the best ways of honouring Mary and of meditating on the life of her Son through reflection on the Mysteries as we pray each decade.

For further information see:

<http://www.how-to-pray-the-rosary-everyday.com/month-of-the-holy-rosary.html>

<https://www.thereligionteacher.com/the-month-of-the-rosary-is-october/>

The Holy Father’s Intentions for the Month of October

This October, Pope Francis asks us to pray that every baptised person may be engaged in evangelisation, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.

You can download a group reflection and video from

<http://popeprayersusa.net>

October 1st Feast Day of St Therese of Lisieux

St Therese of Lisieux better known as the little flower, is renowned as a teacher of evangelical life, particularly effective in illuminating the paths of young people who must be the leaders and witnesses of the gospel to the new generations. St Therese has made the gospel shine appealingly in our time. She had the mission of making the church known and loved.

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2021-10-01>

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?recnum=232>

October 2nd Feast of the Guardian Angels

How many of us pray to our guardian angels? Devotion to the Angels is an expression of faith in the enduring love and care extended to each person daily by God. Servants and messengers of God, they help us in our work and study protecting us from harm.

<http://www.franciscanmedia.org/feasaint-of-the-guardian-angels/>

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date2018-10-02>

October 4th Feast of St Francis of Assisi

“First do what is necessary. Then do what is possible. And before you know it you are doing the impossible”

Most people know Francis as a middle-aged ascetic who loved animals. The complete story is even more interesting. Saint Francis was born in 1181 in Assisi in Italy. In his youth, he spent money lavishly on fine clothes and having fun. He became ill twice and then realised he was wasting precious time and that he should be serving Jesus instead.

Often he gave his clothes and money to the poor and served the sick in hospital. He felt he should do more and went around in rags while fasting. His father was disgusted with his behaviour and took his inheritance from him. Saint Francis had to depend on the kindness of people for food and shelter. He begged sinners to convert and return to God. He had the great power of working miracles. He loved all creatures and the animals obeyed his commands. Saint Francis died on October 3rd 1226.

For further information, a full-length movie and PowerPoint presentations see the following links

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rG5jVcYA1aM>

<http://education.dublindiocese.ie/october-4th-st-francis-of-assis/>

<https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saintid=50>

October 5th Feast Day of St Faustina

Sister Faustina was a young, uneducated nun in a convent of the congregation of sisters of Our Lady of mercy in Poland during the 1930s. She came from a poor family that struggled during the years of World War One. She had only three years of simple education so hers were the humblest tasks in the convent, usually in the kitchen and gardens. However, she received extraordinary revelations- or messages -from our Lord Jesus. Jesus asked her to record these experiences which she compiled into notebooks. These notebooks are known today as the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalski, and the words contained within our God’s loving message of Divine Mercy.

Though the Divine Mercy message is not new to the teachings of the Church, Sr Faustina’s Diary sparked a great movement and a strong and significant focus on the mercy of Christ. St.

John Paul II canonised Sr Faustina in 2000 making her the first Saint of the new millennium endless mercy. He called her the “great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time”. today, we continue to rely on St Faustina as a constant reminder of the message to trust in Jesus’ endless mercy and to live life mercifully towards others. We also turn to her in prayer and request her intercession to our merciful Saviour on our behalf.

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/stfaustina/>

https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=510

October 5th World Teachers Day

In 2021, World Teachers Day will celebrate teachers with the theme “Teachers at the heart of education recovery”.

UNESCO presented this theme for teachers’ day in respect of their determined and diligent efforts in the crucial stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we celebrate, we must also look at the future of the profession and prepare young dedicated teachers for the 21st century challenges of “teaching in diversity”.

<https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/worldteachersday>

October 7th The Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

“The whole purpose of the Rosary is to lead to this deep experience of Our Lady, who together with Jesus breathes the Spirit into us”

October is the month in which Mary Most Holy, Queen of the Holy Rosary, is venerated. Pope John Paul II invited us to pray this Marian prayer, possibly every day, for peace.

This feast, focused on the intercessory power of our blessed Lady, was instituted by Pope St Pius V in thanksgiving for the great naval victory of a Christian fleet over the Turks at Lepanto on October 7, 1571, a favour widely attributed to intense recitation of the Rosary. Pope St Pius V and all Christians had prayed the Rosary for victory.

In modern times successive popes have urged the faithful to pray the rosary regularly, as a form of contemplative prayer focused on the life of Christ. It calls prayerful attention to the saving mysteries of Christ and Mary’s close association with her son in his mission. Pope St. John Paul II called the Rosary a “Christocentric prayer” containing the Gospel message in its entirety. The Rosary invites us to reflect on the great mysteries of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

<https://www.thereligionteacher.com/the-month-of-the-rosary-is-october/>

<http://education.dublindiocese.ie/2016/10/17/october-17-2016>

October 10th World Mental Health Day

This year the world mental health day slogan is

“Mental health care for all: let's make it a reality” brings a positive message on how to take care of your own mental health and provide support to others. For easily accessible resource is and more information see:

<http://www.who.int/campaigns>

October 15th Feast Day of St Teresa of Avila

“Prayer is an act of love. Words are not needed”.-Teresa of Avila

Saint Teresa of Avila, a sixteenth century Spanish saint and mystic, was very aware that every Christian has a role to play in making Christ present in the world. St Teresa was born in Avila in 1515 and died in Alba, Spain in 1582. When she was 7 years of age she ran away from home in the hope of being martyred by the Moors; in this way, she said she could come to see God. At the age of eighteen, she joined the Carmelite Order and chose to serve God as a nun. With the help of St John of the Cross, she reformed most of the Carmelite convents and founded new ones. She reached the highest degree of prayer and through prayer obtained such knowledge of divine things that in 1970 Pope Paul VI named her the first woman Doctor of the Church. This was a great honour, especially for a woman of her time. She was canonised in 1622.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLflV99jZo>

<http://education.dublindiocese.ie/st-teresa-of-avila/>

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/day.cfm?date=2018-10-15>

October 16th UN World Food Day

“Our actions are our future – Better Production, better Nutrition, a better Environment and a better Life”

The food we use and the way we consume it affects our health and that of our planet. World Food Day 2021 gives us an opportunity to look into the future we need to build together.

<http://www.fao.org/world-food-day/them/en/>

October 17th International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Today we express our solidarity with the people who must live with poverty and social exclusion in our world. The theme this year is:

“Building Forward Together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting All People and our Planet”.

For information on what you can do see:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/povertyday>

October 18th European Day against Human Trafficking

Trafficking in Human Beings is a global problem and a violation of a person’s human rights. It can be driven by poverty. Many countries, including Ireland, have specific laws to deal with trafficking. For further information and excellent resources there are two outstanding groups working against human trafficking. They are:

RENATE: Religion in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation

<https://www.renate-europe.net/>

APT: Act to Prevent Trafficking

<https://www.aptireland.org/what-can-i-do/>

Pope Francis reminds us that slavery “is not something of other times and that “no one can their hands of it without being, in some way, an accomplice to this crime against humanity.

<https://thepopevideo.org/human-trafficking/>

October 18th Feast of St Luke the Evangelist.

St Luke, the inspired author of the third Gospel And of the acts of the apostles, was a native of Antioch in Syria and a physician, and one of the early converts from paganism. He accompanied St Paul on a considerable part of his missionary journey. He was also his companion while in prison at Rome on two different occasions. His account of these events contained in the Acts is first hand history. Luke’s Gospel is, above all, the Gospel of the Merciful Heart of Jesus. It emphasises the fact that Christ is the salvation of all men, especially of the repentant sinner and of the lowly. Today, especially during these difficult days of the pandemic ask your students to pray for doctors and those who care for the sick, through the intercession of St Luke, who is patron of physicians.

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/calendar/da.cfm?date=2020-10-18>

<https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saintid=76>

October 22nd St John Paul II

Today we celebrate the feast day of Saint John Paul II the great defender of life and the family of our times. The church has chosen to celebrate his feast not on the date of his death, which was on April 2nd 2005 but on the anniversary of his formal installation as universal pontiff on October 22nd 1978

Pope John Paul II sometimes called Saint John Paul or John Paul the great born Karol Joseph Wojtyla was the head of the Catholic Church from 16 October 1978 to his death in 2005 he was the second longest serving Pope in history as he was a pole, he was the first non-Italian Pope in 455 years. The last non-Italian Pope was Pope Adrian VI, who died in 1523

he is the first ever Pope to visit the White House, and a mosque. He travelled more than any other Pope before him, visiting many of the countries of the world. He is also famous for starting the annual World Youth Day. After he was beatified, his title was changed to Blessed John Paul II. John Paul II was canonised by Pope Francis on April 27 2014, which means that the Polish Pope is now known as Saint John Paul II

<https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saintid=6996>

October 24th Mission Sunday

The theme chosen by Pope Francis for this year's World Mission Sunday is "we cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" there is a need for a "mission of compassion".

Pope Francis continues, "everything about Christ reminds us that he knows well our world and its need for redemption, and calls us to become actively engaged in this mission". We are asked to remember that the call to mission is not a thing of the past or a left over from early times. Jesus needs agents of compassion today.

<http://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news>

October 28th Feast of Saint Jude and Saint Simon

Today the church celebrates the feast of Saints Simon and Jude whose names occur together in the Canon of the Mass and are also celebrated on the same day. Possibly this is because they both preached the gospel in Mesopotamia and Persia where it is said they had both been sent, but in actual fact we know nothing for certain about them beyond what is told us of their being called Apostles in the New Testament. St. Jude is the author of a short at Epistle, which forms part of the New Testament.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saints-simon-and-jude>

October 29th Blessed Chiara Badano

Chiara Badano was a modern teenager. She liked to sing, dance, play tennis and skate until cancer took her life at age 18, only two decades ago. Chiara was a member of the Focolare Movement, Founded in Italy by Chiara Lubich in 1943.

Chiara is now Blessed Chiara Badano, The step before becoming a Saint. She was beatified on September 25th 2010. Her feast day is celebrated on October 29th. She is blessed because of the good life she led and because of a miracle that happened through her prayers.

<https://www.chiaralucebadano.it/index.php?lang=en>

Other Dates / Information

Archdiocese of Dublin

See the Archdiocese of Dublin website for information on events, which take place throughout the diocese

<http://www.dublindiocese.ie>

Nutrition for the Soul

Excellent resources available here including reflections and posters.

<http://patsnutritionforthesoul.blogspot.com/>

RTAI Religion Teachers Association of Ireland

The Religion Teachers Association of Ireland was founded in 1992 and is the national professional association of second level teachers of religious education in Ireland. For further details see:

<https://rtai.ie>

Appointment of a New National Director for Catechetics.

Dr Alex O'Hara has been appointed as the new National Director for Catechetics. He has asked for your help with an online "Healthy Planet Healthy People" petition. Adults, students and all young people are encouraged to sign this online petition.

Pope Francis will personally present signatures to COP 26 President in Glasgow when he attends the climate conference in November. Details of the petition can be found at:-

<https://thecatholicpetition.org/>

Further information can be accessed at:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0j3En7Qofhl&t=6s>

The Season of Creation video prayer located at:-

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tyd2vh_XLaE

PLEASE ENCOURAGE ALL STAFF AND STUDENTS TO SIGN THE PETITION

New Senior Cycle Non Exam Textbook Planning

Veritas are beginning the process of preparing a new senior cycle textbook for non-exam RE classes. They are inviting senior cycle religion teachers to answer a survey on what sort of resource would be most appreciated by you. The survey is set up on a SurveyMonkey so the completed form will be accessible to Siobhan O'Donoghue who will collate the results. Siobhan will co-write the book with Tom Gunning. The survey link is:

<https://conta.cc/3kM4URP>

An excellent database of resources for religion teachers is available by contacting Marie Murphy at:

reclassresources@gmail.com